

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

The public trust in
stations to provide
balanced information
is misplaced on
Sinclair - this is
an attempt by a
corporation to
influence election
outcome, and to use
their control of
public airwaves in
doing so. The issue
is not one of free
speech, because they
are choosing to fund
the transmission of
a one-sided piece of
political
advertising in
effect. If they
were funding the
transmission of an
equal length and
equally prominent
time-slot of an
opposing view, that
would be fair. They
are not, and it is
an abuse of the
public trust
granting them use of
broadcast spectrum.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard.

Thank you.